

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Koppelkamm et al. To the extent that this rejection would be applied to claim 1 as presently amended, such rejection is tranversed for the reasons following.

Referring to Figure 3, claim 1 as presently amended recites a printing press having at least one printing unit (5) having an impression cylinder (12) over which a web (18) is passed, and a forme cylinder (9) bearing at least one printing plate (13). As shown in Figure 5, the printing plate (13) has means for printing two printed pages (14, 15) arranged contiguously in the circumferential direction and having different heights (L1, L2). The printing plate (13) comprises means for printing the page (15) having height L2 only with copies (17), and means for printing the page (14) having height L1 with copies (16) and a control strip (3). As recited in claim 3, a transfer cylinder (11) is arranged between the forme cylinder (9) and the impression cylinder (12). As recited in claim 4, a further forme cylinder (10) is provided, the impression cylinder (12) serving as a further transfer cylinder for printing both sides of the web (18).

The object of the invention is to eliminate one of the control strips (3) associated with one of the printed pages (4) of the prior art, shown in Figure 2, thereby maximizing the size of the copies on the printed pages. It has nothing to do with a single printed page of length (L), as shown in Figure 1, which corresponds to the circumference of the cylinder.

Koppelkamm et al. discloses a printing unit having a pair of forme cylinders (1, 2) and a pair of transfer cylinders (3, 4) having twice the diameter of the forme cylinders. As noted in the abstract, and illustrated in Figures 11-15, the form (forme) cylinder is fitted in the

circumferential direction with one, and in the longitudinal (axial) direction with at least four, portrait printed pages in broadsheet format. This is known in the trade as a 1/4 machine.

As illustrated in Figures 17-20, Koppelkamm also discloses a 2/4 arrangement for printing in a book format having two landscape printed pages in circumferential length and four landscape printed pages in longitudinal length. These figures represent a tabloid format having two copies in the circumferential direction; the so-called printed pages of Koppelkamm are the same as the copies in applicants' printed pages. Figures 21-24 illustrate a 2/8 arrangement in a book format and Figures 25-28 illustrate a 4/4 arrangement in a book format. It is therefore known to provide a printing plate having means for printing copies arranged contiguously in the circumferential direction. However there is no suggestion that it is known to provide a printing plate with means for printing contiguous pages having different heights.

With respect to claim 2, the examiner has stated that it would be obvious for the Koppelkamm apparatus to have two printed pages on the circumferential direction to provide an efficient way of printing two pages of different size and with different images. In the section entitled "Response to Arguments", the examiner further points to a statement in Koppelkamm that the invention can be used to produce printed pages or variable products, which the examiner considers as printing pages having different heights. However the examiner has not cited any reference which discloses or suggests the limitation of two different page heights with one page having only copies and the other page having copies and a control strip. The examiner's interpretation of this broad statement in the summary is susceptible of numerous other interpretations and is not supported by the detailed description. It is therefore believed that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

The claims being definite and patentable over the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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